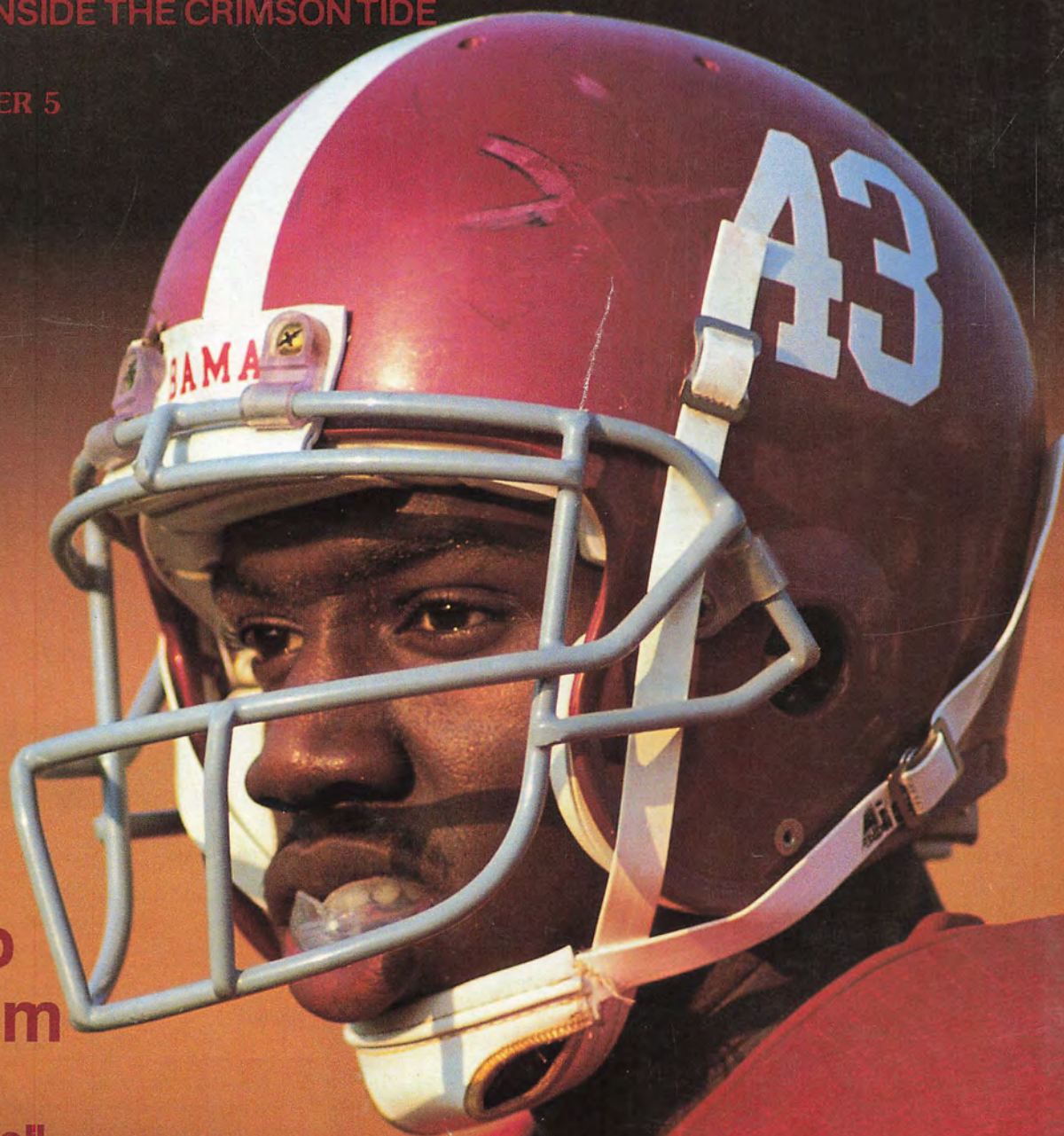


BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MAY, 1991
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 5



Inside
• Antonio
Langham

Also
• Spring Football
• Recruiting
• Junior Sewell
And More



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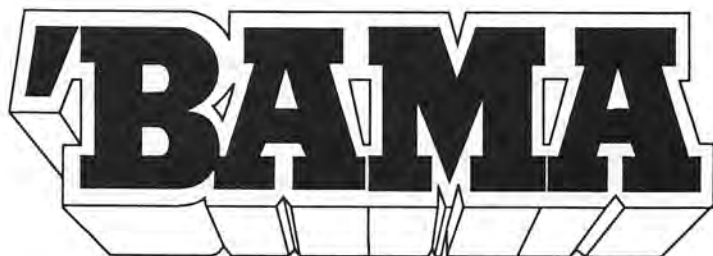


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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MAY '91



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MAY, 1991

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 5

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Alabama Football Made Progress

by Kirk McNair

Tide is not a polished team, but things are better now than before a tough spring training got under way

It is common practice to assign every college football game to an assistant coach. That coach is responsible for getting film and working up the scouting report, although in truth the scouting report is prepared by the entire staff. A number of years ago Coach Paul Bryant had a young assistant coach who very much wanted to be assigned a game. Alabama was playing in a bowl game and Coach Bryant wanted his assistants recruiting in December, so he assigned the bowl game to the young assistant coach. Following the staff meeting the assistant went into Coach Bryant's office

to thank him for the opportunity and promised "I'll do my best."

Coach Bryant took a puff on his Chesterfield, exhaled, and said, "Well, son, your best may not be good enough."

Alabama's football team gave its best this spring. Whether that will be good enough won't be known until fall, but Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings has to be happy with the progress his team made. "It was a productive spring," he said. Stallings does not like having to have part of the practices in sweatclothes as mandated by NCAA rule because the linemen can't get much out of that kind of practice, but on days when the Tide had contact it really had contact. Bama work was very tough with the first offense going against the first defense in drills and scrimmages every day.

The goals of spring training were well known. Of most interest to Crimson Tide followers was the quarterback battle. Of most concern to the coaching staff was the offensive line. The other top worries for Stallings were finding a free safety and a field goal kicker.

The losses in the offensive line were substantial. The only returning starters were a pair of 1990 redshirted freshmen, Matt Hammond at left tackle and William Barger at left guard, and both of them had those positions because of the absences of others. In the spring Hammond held off a determined challenge from Charlie Dare, who eventually moved to right tackle, and Barger had an excellent spring after moving to right guard.

Although depth remains a very serious problem in the offensive line, it is not far-fetched to suggest that Alabama's 1991 offensive line will be more effective than it was last year. Stallings hoped to have three good tackles, three good guards and two good centers when spring training ended. He might not have gotten all his wishes, but the Tide front line has come close to that goal.

The move of Dare to right tackle gave Bama very good performance at that position. In addition to Dare beginning to show the potential he has always been credited with having, redshirt sophomore Roosevelt Patterson had a strong spring at right tack-

Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings saw his Crimson Tide make strides during spring training, but there are still some questions to be answered and some concerns to be alleviated if Bama is to be a top football team in 1991.

Barry Fikes Photo



le. Patterson, who missed football in 1989 because of academics, does not have good endurance and Tide coaches are hoping he is vigorous in his summer workouts. Both Dare and Patterson are 295-pounders.

Alabama moved two men from defense to the offensive line and Tide coaches are happy with both experiments. Although Barger was overweight (290 instead of the 270 that is his optimum playing weight) when spring training got under way, he had an excellent spring and right guard appears to be in good shape. Behind him is John Clay, who grew up from a 226-pound inside linebacker to a 260-pound guard. He won't have an immediate impact, but Bama coaches believe by midseason he will be a solid player. George Wilson, who has overcome a terrible foot injury to be an adequate left guard, is still listed number one, but he now has very stiff competition for the job. Bama moved James Gregory from backup nose tackle to the offensive line in the final week of spring training and he was impressive. Gregory outweighs Wilson by 40 pounds (295 to 255) and is much quicker. Although Gregory was put on defense last fall when he reported, Tide coaches had suspected from the time they recruited Gregory that he would be even better on offense. His one week of work reinforced that belief.

The most difficult offensive line position is center and Bama lost an excellent one when Roger Shultz graduated. However, there's another good one coming along. Tobie Sheils is not as big as he needs to be (about 260), but he is a very smart player. And there's no question that daily work against Robert Stewart helped Sheils improve. Behind Sheils is Chad Gladden, who did not progress as much as Tide coaches hoped for.

Stallings' general assessment of the offensive line: "They got better and better and better."

Last year tight end was not a strong position for Alabama after injuries forced the Tide to switch Lamonde Russell from tight end to wide receiver. Many thought redshirt freshman Darrell Miller might win the job, but Miller did not return to the team after spring break. Derrick Warren has been plagued with injuries and he also had hopes of playing baseball, but this spring he concentrated on football and he stayed healthy and he was very good. But he wasn't good enough to overtake the returning starter at that position. Steve Busky had gotten a little bigger (up to around 225) and a lot stronger and he held on to that number one job through the spring.

Miller was one of several who defected from the team this spring. Before practice began the Tide lost nose tackle Billy Whitehill, offensive tackle Todd Chandler and wide receiver Shon Thomas (as well as two who had to give up football because of

Spring Award Winners

Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings announced the winners of the awards given at the conclusion of spring training. The honorees are selected by the Crimson Tide coaching staff.

Because there was no A-Day Game this year, the Dixie Howell Memorial Award for the outstanding player and the Dwight Stephenson Most Valuable Lineman Award, ordinarily selected by the press during the spring game, were not awarded.

Antonio Langham (see page 16) was a double winner. The upcoming sophomore from Town Creek won the Bobby Johns Most Improved Defensive Back Award and the Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman Award.

The Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter Award went to another cornerback, junior George Teague of Montgomery. The 187-pound Teague will long be remembered by practice observers for a rattling tackle of 240-pound fullback Martin Houston that left Houston prone as Teague danced around swapping high-fives with his defensive teammates.

However, Houston, a junior from Centre, won the Sylvester Croom Commitment to Excellence Award.

The Jerry Duncan I Like To Practice Award went to sophomore offensive guard William Barger of Birmingham.

Junior defensive end Eric Curry of Thomasville, Georgia, won the Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Lineman Award. The Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman Award went to senior tackle Charlie Dare of Enterprise. The Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver Award was won by freshman split end Rick Brown of Fort Worth, Texas. Junior tailback Derrick Lassic of Haverstraw, New York, won the Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back Award. Senior walkon Monroe Harrison of Biloxi, Mississippi, who was shifted from tight end to outside linebacker, won the Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker Award.

The Coach "Bear" Bryant Walk-On Award went to freshman linebacker Jeff Foshee of Millbrook.

The Lifter of the Year for conditioning work went to senior free safety Charles Gardner of Carson, California.

-Kirk McNair

injuries, offensive tackles Brent Welborn and Scott Bolt). During spring practice Bama lost tailback Robert Jones, defensive back Mark McMillian, offensive guard Tim Matheny and defensive tackle Ervin Collier, as well as Miller. There is a chance that one or more of those might return.

The quarterback situation is not entirely cleared up, but Stallings feels much better about the position than he did before the opening of spring drills. Danny Woodson, the upcoming senior who played for the first time last year in a backup role, has not had a good history of moving the football team, but he does have physical talents. Alabama's offensive scheme was different than the dropback passing game the Tide used with less mobile Gary Hollingsworth at quarterback last year and Stallings believes that the new offense (which will involve more sprint out work by the quarterbacks, including the possibility of the quarterback running the football on option plays) is more suited to Woodson's skills. He had praised the work of Woodson throughout the spring until Woodson had to miss the final week of drills with a pulled hamstring.

Woodson's absence gave redshirt freshman Jay Barker an opportunity and Barker took advantage of it. He got almost every snap with the first team in that final week, which was five practices (one third of the 15 allowed in the spring including three of the 10 contact drills permitted) and made great improvement. In the final scrimmage Barker completed 8 of 16

passes for 228 yards for three touchdowns with no interceptions and also ran for 29 yards.

There was one other notable quarterback in spring training. Danny Davis, a walkon redshirt freshman, did well early. Stallings said that he feels comfortable with the quarterback situation going into the 1991 season, although he would have preferred one of the quarterbacks to step forward and claim the job. He said those three would be joined by sophomore Steve Christopher, coming off a year of inactivity because of academics, and incoming freshman Brian Burgdorf when Bama begins fall practice in August.

(Although Alabama does not officially announce which, if any, players are in academic jeopardy, Stallings said he did have concerns in that area. It is thought that Woodson is among some 20 players who will have to attend summer school to be eligible this fall.)

Last year Alabama started the season with three straight losses, in part because the Tide was also losing good football players to knee injuries in those games. Tailbacks Siran Stacy and Tarrant Lynch and wide receivers Craig Sanderson and Prince Wimbley were among those lost for the year. All have had surgery and all are making very good recoveries and should be able to play this fall.

However, even without them returning, Stallings is pleased with the situation at the two running back positions and the two wide receiver positions. At fullback, Kevin Turner and Martin Houston are the return-



Freshman quarterback Jay Barker took almost every snap with the first team offense in Alabama's final week of spring football practice and the extra time seemed to pay off as Barker made great improvement in those final five workouts. Barker and senior Danny Woodson, who missed that last week with a pulled hamstring, will go into fall drills as the top candidates for the critical job of starting quarterback.

Barry Fikes Photo

ing one-two men from last year and Junior Sewell had his moments in a one-back attack. Sewell did not have as good a spring as Turner and Houston. At tailback, Derrick Lassic and Irving Spikes got almost all of the work and both had very good practices. There will be more competition there in the fall as Chris Anderson returns from a spring of playing baseball and Stacy (providing he gets caught up academically) and Lynch get back into uniform.

The best battles for playing time this season could be at the two wide receiver spots. In addition to the return of Sanderson, a senior, and Wimbley, a junior, and the return of junior Donnie Finkley, who took over as starting flanker last fall, and sophomore Kevin Lee (the Tide's fastest player and a backup flanker last season), a redshirt freshman had an outstanding spring. Rick Brown has the

ability to do two things that Tide wide receivers did not do well last fall: get open and catch the football.

Incoming freshmen might be in the playing picture, too. Among Bama signees are receivers Curt Brown, Keith Conegia, Tommy Johnson and David Palmer (who is capable of playing any number of skill positions).

Stallings has said that Burgdorf will get a long look at quarterback when the freshmen report. Although the impact of the freshmen depends in part on which ones are academically eligible (and no one knows yet what the situation is on that front), insiders say as many as 10 might have a chance to play. In addition to Burgdorf and Palmer, the offense could get help from tight end Tony Johnson and guard Jon Stevenson. On defense the names to watch are Damiean Jeffries at outside linebacker and Will Brown, Tommy

Johnson and Sam Shade in the secondary (although Johnson and/or Shade might end up on offense). It is almost certain, too, that Alabama will try to find one defensive lineman from a group of three or four—Elverett Brown, Shannon Brown, Bryan Thornton and Brent Clark (if Clark is used on defense).

Stallings admitted that he watched the offense more than he did the defense during the spring because he knows the defense is going to be good. It was certainly good last year: first in the nation in passing defense, sixth in rushing defense, third in total defense and fourth in scoring defense.

There are some losses from last year's team, notably tackles George Thornton and Byron Holdbrooks. However, there are three holdovers and one outstanding newcomer for the three down line spots in

Bama's 3-4 defensive alignment. Top returning defensive lineman is nose tackle Robert Stewart (6-0, 275), who will be playing the same position for the second consecutive year for the first time in his five-year Bama career. He was a linebacker as a freshman, a fullback as a sophomore, held out in 1989, then moved to nose tackle last year. Junior Eric Curry (6-6, 265) was expected to be the right end last year, but he was plagued with injuries and ended up in a backup role. At left end sophomore Jeremy Nunley (6-5, 255) was a surprise of the spring, holding off a challenge from junior college transfer John Copeland (6-4, 265). Last year Bama was able to have an effective pass rush (the Tide averaged 3.64 sacks per game last year with Curry the team leader with eight, Thornton second with seven, and Stewart and Nunley tied for third with four each) from its front three and, therefore, relied only occasionally on the blitz to pressure the passer. The strength of Stewart (he bench presses over 500 pounds) and the quickness of Curry and Nunley indicate Bama will again get a good rush from the down linemen.

However, the one newcomer in the Crimson Tide linebacker corps could be a factor in Alabama's pass rush. Junior Antonio London (6-4, 240) has moved up to take over the right outside linebacker spot manned the past three years by Spencer Hammond. London has much

Alabama picked up some muscle in the defensive line this spring when junior college transfer John Copeland reported for drills. Although Copeland was unable to unseat Jeremy Nunley as the number one man at defensive left end, Copeland can be expected to see plenty of playing time.

Barry Fikes Photo



Guess At A Post-Spring Training Depth Chart

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings does not issue a specific post season depth chart. In fact, he was clear in his pronouncement of the situation at quarterback: There is no first team quarterback. Redshirt freshman Jay Barker and senior Danny Woodson are both to be considered first team until practice resumes in August. It is obvious that a number of starting positions will be won in fall work. Additionally, there are several Tiders who did not participate in spring work, but wide receivers Craig Sanderson and Prince Wimbley and tailbacks Siran Stacy and Tarrant Lynch will almost certainly project onto this depth chart in high positions. And tailback Chris Anderson, the starter most of last fall, was on the baseball team this spring and, therefore, does not show up in this depth chart. This is strictly a guess (albeit a guess based on daily observation of Tide practices) at where Alabama was two-deep at the end of spring training:

Offense

Split End-Donnie Finkley, Dabo Swinney
Left Tackle-Matt Hammond, Johnny Howard
Left Guard-George Wilson, James Gregory
Center-Toby Shiels, Chad Gladden
Right Guard-William Barger, John Clay
Right Tackle-Charlie Dare, Roosevelt Patterson
Tight End-Steve Busky, Derrick Warren
Quarterback-Jay Barker, Danny Woodson
Tailback-Derrick Lassic, Irving Spikes
Fullback-Kevin Turner, Martin Houston
Flanker-Kevin Lee, Rick Brown

Offense

Right End-Eric Curry, Bart Pritchett
Nose Tackle-Robert Stewart, John Phillips
Left End-Jeremy Nunley, John Copeland
Right Outside Linebacker-Antonio London, Monroe Harrison
Left Outside Linebacker-Steve Webb, Byron Snead
Strongside Linebacker-John Sullins, Rodney Helton
Weakside Linebacker-Derrick Oden, Mario Morris
Right Cornerback-Antonio Langham, Rock Woody
Left Cornerback-George Teague, Mickey Conn
Strong Safety-Stacy Harrison, Lemanski Hall
Safety-Charles Gardner, Brian Stutson

Kicking

Placekicker-Matt Wethington, Hamp Greene Snapper-Matthew Pine Holder-Jeff Wall Punter-Tank Williamson, J.J. Adams

better speed than Hammond and could be a blitz specialist. At the right outside spot Bama returns two experienced seniors, starter Steve Webb (6-3, 250), who had a very good spring, and backup Byron Sneed (6-3, 244).

Both starters return at inside linebacker spots. Senior John Sullins (6-1, 225) and junior Derrick Oden (6-0, 225) were the Tide's leading tacklers last year with 76 and 72 stops. Junior Rodney Helton (6-0, 225) was a top backup man as a freshman, but slowed by injuries last year. Junior Keith Neighbors (6-1, 215) is small for an inside linebacker, but he has a good football background. Two redshirted freshmen linebackers—Mario Morris and Michael Rogers—were very impressive in the spring. There are a number of young prospects at all of the inside and outside linebacker positions.

The best news in the secondary is that Bill Oliver, considered by many to be the best defensive backfield coach in the nation, is the man in charge. Bama returns a

handful of experienced defensive backs, in part because of Alabama's 1990 scheme in which as many as seven defensive backs played in passing situations.

Senior Stacy Harrison, one of the Tide's top hitters, returns at strong safety. He's backed by sophomore Lemanski Hall. The free safety spot continues to be a concern. Senior Brian Stutson stayed ahead of senior Charles Gardner through most of the spring, but in the final 10 days Gardner moved back to first team. Gardner was the starting safety for two and a half years before the graduated Efrum Thomas took over there midway through 1990. Junior George Teague returns to start at left cornerback, while sophomore Antonio Langham may be a budding superstar at right corner. There's not much depth at cornerback, only juniors Darren Greenwood and Alvin Hope with any experience. There are indications that Mark McMillian, who left the team midway through spring training, might return to the team. If he does return and is academi-

cally eligible, he may go to left cornerback with Teague shifting to free safety.

Another area of concern for Stallings is Bama's kicking game. Last year the Tide kicking game was greatly responsible for early season losses, but also greatly responsible for the Tide's second biggest win of the year, the 6-3 decision over Tennessee in Knoxville. In the first three games Bama suffered from poor execution in all phases of the kicking game, but particularly in punting. Senior Tank Williamson took over as punter midway through the Tennessee game and finished the year with a 39.96-yard average. In the spring he held off the challenges of sophomore Stan Moss (who opened 1990 as the punter) and freshman barefoot booter J. J. Adams, but that competition is expected to be resumed in the fall. Stallings was less satisfied with the search to replace All-America placekicker Philip Doyle. Junior Hamp Greene and soph Matt Wethington were best of a large spring bunch trying to win the job.

Stallings Makes Tide Football Camps Special

There are football camps on almost every college campus in the summer, many of them big money-makers for the coaches at those schools and/or opportunities for those coaches to work with future prospects. Frequently at those camps the only time the campers see the head coach is at a brief photo opportunity, where the camper gets his picture made with the coach.

Youngsters attending the Alabama Football Camp do get that keepsake photograph of themselves with Crimson Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings. But that's not the end of their involvement with the Bama head man. It's the beginning.

The Alabama Football Camp is exactly what it says—a football camp. That means football almost every waking moment for the campers and the coaches. In addition to each Alabama assistant coach working with campers by position, the Tide also involves high school coaches. "It's no secret that some of the finest high school coaches in the nation are those in Alabama high schools, and we feel very fortunate to have them as a part of this camp," Stallings said.

And there's one more football coach in each meeting and in each drill and, along with all other staff members, living in the dormitory with the campers. Gene Stallings is a hands-on football coach, and that carries over to his work with the youngsters. He is with them constantly from registration to closing ceremonies.

This year's Alabama football camps for players entering the seventh grade through those who have not progressed beyond 11th grade will be June 9-12 and June 12-15. The second session also includes a junior camp for players who will be entering the second through sixth grades. Registration information may be obtained by calling the Alabama football office, AC205 348-3692. This camp-fills very quickly so anyone interested should act immediately.

These are noncontact drill camps (although campers wear helmets for protection) and closely resemble Alabama practices on noncontact practice days in spring training or early fall. The players work with position coaches on various drills. Prior to workouts there are position meetings, just as Alabama players meet before practice each day. Of course, high school players frequently play both an offensive and defensive position, and the camp is structured to give campers time with both positions. (For instance, a player might work with Mal Moore in the quarterback drills for half a session, then go to Bill Oliver's defensive back drills for half a session. Workouts are planned so that players do not miss any of the teachings of fundamental techniques of their positions.)

The players work on the same practice fields (including the Hank Crisp Indoor Facility) and use the same blocking sleds and dummies and other equipment as Alabama's Crimson Tide football team. Campers also use the modern training room, spacious dressing rooms, exercise room and the state-of-the-art weight-room as Bama players.

Instruction is provided in passing, receiving, blocking, tackling and kicking. There is also professional training in the art of flexibility, weight training, and conditioning. An Alabama trainer is on duty for all workouts.

The Alabama Football Camp attracts a number of young players who will be college prospects, but that is not the purpose of the camp. It is an open camp designed to teach football skills and the philosophy of being a member of a football team. "Everyone can't be an All-America, but everyone who plays football can get some insight into what it's all about and what he can get out of football," Stallings said. "It's a big responsibility to be a part of a football team." The camp is held at the beginning of summer so that players will have this football experience on their minds as they work on their own in the summer preparing for the upcoming season.

Stallings got his first experience with football camps when he was assistant head coach of the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League. He and fellow Dallas coach Ernie Stautner started the Cowboys Camp. They researched what was being done in the current football camps and took the best of what they found. Stallings has continued to have someone researching camps to make sure the Alabama Football Camp is the best possible. It has also been his feeling that a football camp must be affordable, and Alabama's is.

Players at the Alabama Football Camp take more than fundamental skills and the winning Crimson Tide football philosophy home with them. There are evaluations (such as 40-yard dash times, bench press marks, vertical and long jump measurements, etc.) so that each player is aware of areas in which he makes progress in his summer work.

The camp doesn't end when the sun goes down. Nighttime is gametime, with the players divided into squads for football competition. That is part of the overall concept of the individual operating within the team framework. The camp concludes with an Awards Ceremony to which parents and friends of participating players are invited.

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Trying To Fill Doyle's Kicking Shoe

by Kirk McNair

After transferring from North Carolina, junior placekicker hopes to take place of All-America

Almost every football fan has heard someone speak derisively of field goal kickers, that they are not really football players. A former football player turned television commentator once lamented that the real men did the playing for 59 minutes, then some diminutive soccer-style kicker came in and won the game. More than a few players and coaches have noted that placekickers are not really football players. But Alabama football players and coaches don't exhibit that attitude.

Hamp Greene is trying to win that placekicking job for the Crimson Tide. The feeling he gets from his coaches and teammates is "The guys realize that some are here to block, some are here to run, some are here to tackle and some are here to kick. There's no question that Spring practice is less demanding on a kicker than it is on other players. But, everyone has a job to do. It's a team game. The people here realize that placekicking is important, that it can win games. I'm sure Philip kicking that one against Tennessee didn't hurt the attitude that people have here about field goal kickers."

Philip is Philip Doyle, an All-America last year and Bama's field goal and extra point man for the past three years. His 47-yard field goal as time expired was good for an Alabama victory over the Vols in Knoxville. Doyle is the Tide's all-time leading scorer with 345 points, the second best total in Southeastern Conference history.

Greene knows something about scoring points, too. Like Doyle, Green was more than a kicker as a high school player. At Montgomery Academy he was also a running back, free safety and punter (his career average was 40.7 yards per punt). As a senior in 1987 he broke the state high school record for scoring (set by Major Ogilvie when Ogilvie starred at Mountain Brook High School before moving on to a stellar career at Alabama) with 237 points. As a senior Greene rushed for 1,600 yards, scored 24 touchdowns, connected on nine field goals and scored 65 extra points (one a two-pointer). He was a three-year all-state performer and led his team to a 14-0 record his final season. His over-

time field goal won the inaugural Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Game at Ladd Stadium in Mobile.

Hamp Hunter Greene IV is a 5-11, 180-pounder. Although he has never kicked in an Alabama game, he is a junior in eligibility. However, Greene does have college kicking experience. Even though his father is an Alabama alumnus (a former member of the Crimson Tide golf team and one of the better amateur golfers in Alabama), there were two good reasons Hamp did not choose to attend Bama when he finished his high school career. Those reasons were Philip Doyle and Alan Ward, both former prep All-America placekickers who were sophomores on scholarship at Alabama.

While Greene said he might have walked on with the Crimson Tide, when North Carolina offered a scholarship he couldn't turn it down. Greene kicked about half the year for Coach Mack Brown's first Tar Heel team. He was good on three of seven field goal attempts and 10 of 11 extra point kicks (the miss was blocked) and he had a long field goal of 47 yards against Wake Forest. However, he decided to transfer after that first year. But Alabama still had Ward and Doyle and so it was only a minor surprise when news reports in Montgomery in the summer of 1989 had Greene transferring to Auburn. (Incidentally, grandfather Hamp Greene is an Auburn alumnus.) However, reports of Greene's transfer turned out to be greatly exaggerated. Greene admits that the reports of his transfer to Auburn were correct. He had decided the opportunity for a kicker was better there. However, that's a difficult move for an Alabama fan to make. A couple of months later he enrolled quietly at Alabama.

Greene sat out the transfer penalty year in 1989 season as a redshirt, then sat and watched as Doyle kicked to All-America honors last year.

During his transfer season he did not dress out with the team for games, but went through parts of practice, primarily practice on his own. He was not involved in the fullspeed kicking drills except for occasional duties with the scout team against the first defense. In the Spring of 1990 he became a full-fledged member of the team. "But," he said, "we all knew Philip was coming back." Nevertheless, Greene did well in scrimmages that Spring and in the A-Day game (which Doyle missed because of baseball responsibilities and Ward missed because of an injury) Greene successfully kicked extra points on his three opportunities.

The Spring of 1990 was also the first in which Greene had a real kicking coach.

Prior to Gene Stallings becoming Alabama's head coach the kicking teams were under the responsibility of John Guy, who was primarily involved as outside linebacker coach under Bill Curry. A graduate assistant, Greg Carter, also did some work with the kickers, but not on technique. "We were really pretty much on our own," Greene said. "It was a lot of individual work and a lot of work with other kickers watching each other and helping each other."

When Stallings took over he added Amos Jones to his staff. Jones, a former Tide running back and graduate assistant coach, had been the special teams coach at Temple and he had worked on the actual techniques of placekickers and punters as well as the myriad of other aspects of the overall kicking game.

"Coach Jones works with us on technique," Greene said. "He's the first coach I've worked with who understands the technical side of kicking." Jones has made some minor adjustments in Greene's style. "The year I transferred I made some changes in (the way I used) my plant foot," Greene said. "Coach Jones has worked with me on my approach and my plant." Coaching a kicker is ordinarily fine tuning. For instance, Jones did not try to change Doyle's abnormally wide angle to the ball. Doyle was able to take that angle (which made him appear to start at a longer distance from the ball than most kickers) because he had exceptional leg strength.

Ordinarily, a placekicker takes a short jab step, then two long steps. The rule of thumb is that a kick that gets away in 1.3 seconds from the snap will not be blocked. "We try for 1.25 seconds or better to be safe," Greene said. Tide placekickers are timed throughout practice.

Stallings said throughout Spring training that he had concerns about finding a placekicker. "You always want a good kicker," Stallings said. "You're just not always fortunate enough to have one. I didn't worry about placekicking last year. I didn't have to. This year I've got to worry until we find someone we can count on."

Greene said he feels "good about my Spring. I took the approach that I was going to worry about my kicking and not worry about what other people were doing. I try to improve every day. I feel if I improve my techniques, things will work out."

Jones said, "I tell them all that they can't try to be Philip Doyle. Know yourself. Know your limitations and work from there. Do what you do best. We need to find a kicker that makes the kicks he is supposed to make, the kicks that are within his range. That's what Philip did. And



Although Hamp Greene is the only Crimson Tide placekicker currently on scholarship, the battle for that job was not won in the spring. In fact, many believe that Greene is behind walkon sophomore Matt Wethington. However, all of the coaches and candidates believe the successor to All-America Philip Doyle will not be known until as many as nine candidates battle it out next fall.

Barry Fikes Photo

then he made a percentage of the pressure kicks."

Greene said the secret to kicking success, as in so many other things, is being consistent.

This year the goalposts in college football will be more narrow, the professional width of 18 feet as opposed to the old college width of 24 feet. However, the college hash marks continue to be much wider than in pro football. As a result, many college field goals will be from severe angles. "That puts an emphasis on consistency and alignment," Greene said. "But," he added, "there's still plenty of room in there for a ball to get through. I'll be interested in seeing the statistics after next year. When they took away the kicking tee on field goals and extra points they thought it would have a big effect on placekicks. But it didn't have any effect."

Almost every placekicker is judged by the distance of his field goals. Greene doesn't put as much stock in that. "So many elements come into it," he said. "I feel I have a good shot on anything 50

yards and in and the odds increase if things are good. We don't practice beyond 50 yards."

But his longest in practice? "About 60 yards," he said. "But that was down wind and it's awfully windy in Tuscaloosa. The thing you have to remember is the wind blows four ways and three of those are unfavorable. What a kicker really wants is a calm day."

Greene pointed out that the placekickers work on kicking off on their own, "but the kickoffs won't be put in until August practice. It's one of the least complex aspects of the game." There's one part of the kickoff game that Doyle was prominent in that Greene does not want to be. "Philip was so big, he got in on a lot of tackles," Greene said. "Ideally, I'll kick it into the end zone and then trot to the sideline."

Jones said, "I was pleased with Hamp's work habits in the Spring. He's been in the battle before and should know what to do. But he has not been consistent."

Greene said "The battle will be decided in the fall. We've got good kickers who

push each other. The Spring is important, but so is August. We've got three or four good kickers now and there will be some more then. And then the coaches will make the decision."

Jones agreed. "Hamp is the only kicker we have on scholarship, but Coach Stallings has made it clear there's a scholarship waiting for anyone who wins the job. I was pleased with the progress Matt Wethington (a sophomore from Titusville, Florida) made. I felt sorry for Jim Tuley (sophomore from Montgomery) because he got hurt and since he has the best distance, I thought that would give him a chance." Jones also noted that as many as five walkon placekickers would report in by August, many before that to work on their own. Although Jones didn't name them, one is thought to be Matt Mundy of Carrollton, Georgia. His 52-yard field goal beat Cedartown, Georgia, and incoming quarterback Brian Burgdorf last fall. Another may be Neil Cohen, the highly-regarded kicker from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Tailback In A Fullback's Body

by Donald F. Staffo

He looks forward to one day being the workhorse in Tide offensive attack

Asked to describe himself as a football player, Alabama's Junior Sewell answered: "A tailback in a fullback's body." And considering the 5-11, 230-pound Junior (both his name and his class ranking) runs a 4.5-second 40-yard dash, bench presses 280 pounds and squats 460, that may be accurate.

By comparison, Derrick Lassic, the Crimson Tide football team's fastest tailback, runs a 4.3 40. Junior bench presses about the same as 5-11, 240-pound fullback (but not as much as 6-1, 215-pound starting fullback Kevin Turner). "I'm slow for a tailback, but fast for a fullback," said Sewell. "I'm very strong for a tailback, though not really that strong for a fullback."

His size aside, Sewell, who played tailback in high school, maintains a tailback mentality. "Deep inside I still want to play tailback," he says without hesitation. "One of my goals is to play tailback before I leave here."

There currently is more competition at tailback, with all-America candidate Siran Stacy slated to return, along with capable backups Lassic, Chris Anderson, Tarrant Lynch, and Irving Spikes. Lassic and Anderson shared the starting spot after Stacy suffered a season-ending injury in Alabama's opening game last year, while Spikes was regarded as the top prep running back in the state of Mississippi. At fullback, Turner is an upcoming senior, Houston an upcoming junior. Both are ahead of Sewell on the fullback depth chart.

"I'm not concerned about the competition at tailback," Sewell stated softly but confidently. "The competition only makes me better. I feel I can play tailback here. Next year I want to be the key man on offense. I want to carry the load as a senior."

Sewell clearly misses carrying the ball, something he did often while rushing for more than 5,000 yards and scoring more than 70 touchdowns while starring for Abbeville High School. "I was the workhorse. We used the I-back offense and they kept the ball in my hands about 80 percent of the time, either handing off or throwing to me," said Sewell, who was a starter beginning midway through his fresh-



Junior Sewell

man year en route to first team Class 4A all-state honors as a senior. "I had a big role, but in some games we were way ahead, so I hardly played in the second half."

One game Abbeville was not way ahead in was the playoff contest against Geneva, though Sewell rushed for a career-high 203 yards in a losing cause. Part of the reason was that Stacy, the Tide's current running star, was running for 223 yards for Geneva.

Still, Sewell, while only a 200-pound sophomore, scored four touchdowns in a game against Evergreen, and went on to make first-team All-Wiregrass Conference three years in a row. But like a lot of high school stars recruited to tradition-rich football schools like Alabama, upon arriving at The Capstone Sewell found himself surrounded by prep superstars, all of whom see themselves as 20-carry, 100-yard a game, 1000-yard a season running backs. Some, in the coaches eyes, were better than Sewell.

But Sewell, who narrowed his choice of colleges to Alabama, Florida State, UCLA, and Auburn, though disappointed in the



Larry Kirksey

playing time and number of carries he's had to date, is not bitter. Rather he's biding his time, intent on doing his job, while hoping for an opportunity to do what he did so well at Abbeville.

"Kevin and Martin deserve to play a lot," he said. "But I hope to play a lot more than last year."

Sewell also understands that he's behind some of the others. As a Proposition 48 player he missed the entire 1988 season and 1989 Spring training. And when he returned last year he injured an ankle in the second week of fall practice, forcing him to the sidelines until the fourth game against Vanderbilt.

"In a way being a Prop hurt me," Sewell said. "I couldn't even watch practice. It was the first time since I was nine years old that I didn't play football. I lost the rhythm that I was used to. I really didn't get to know anybody or get close to anyone, so I felt like an outcast. And by not playing, it took me longer to adjust to the plays. If I had it to do over, I probably would be better off if I had gone to a junior

college and played."

Running backs coach Larry Kirksey acknowledges the layoff set Sewell back. "He was rusty because he sat out a year, and then the ankle injury set him back even more," he said. "Then he had to learn the system, so he's had a lot of catching up to do."

"But he's a talented kid. When I saw how big he was, I assumed he was a fullback. But then I saw him run and he runs like a tailback with fullback size. Last year he improved as the season went on."

"He needs to improve his blocking, and he's done that this Spring, though he's not where he should be by any means. But he continues to improve."

With the likelihood of either Danny Woodson or freshman Jay Barker at quarterback this year, compared to slower-footed Gary Hollingsworth, Alabama will be in a different style of offense. That should mean more carries for Sewell, who last season gained 253 yards on 45 attempts. His best day was against Vanderbilt when he rushed 13 times for 76 yards and a touchdown. He also had 52 yards against Cincinnati on only five carries, including a 17-yard bolt into the end zone. He was seven for 41 vs. Southwestern Louisiana. But he derived the most satisfaction from his performance against arch-rival Auburn, when his hard running produced 64 yards and helped set up two Philip Doyle field goals in the second half. On Bama's drive to Doyle's final field goal, one that gave Bama a critical nine-point lead and the final margin of 16-7, Sewell had four carries for 20 yards. And that game ended with Sewell picking up eight more yards.

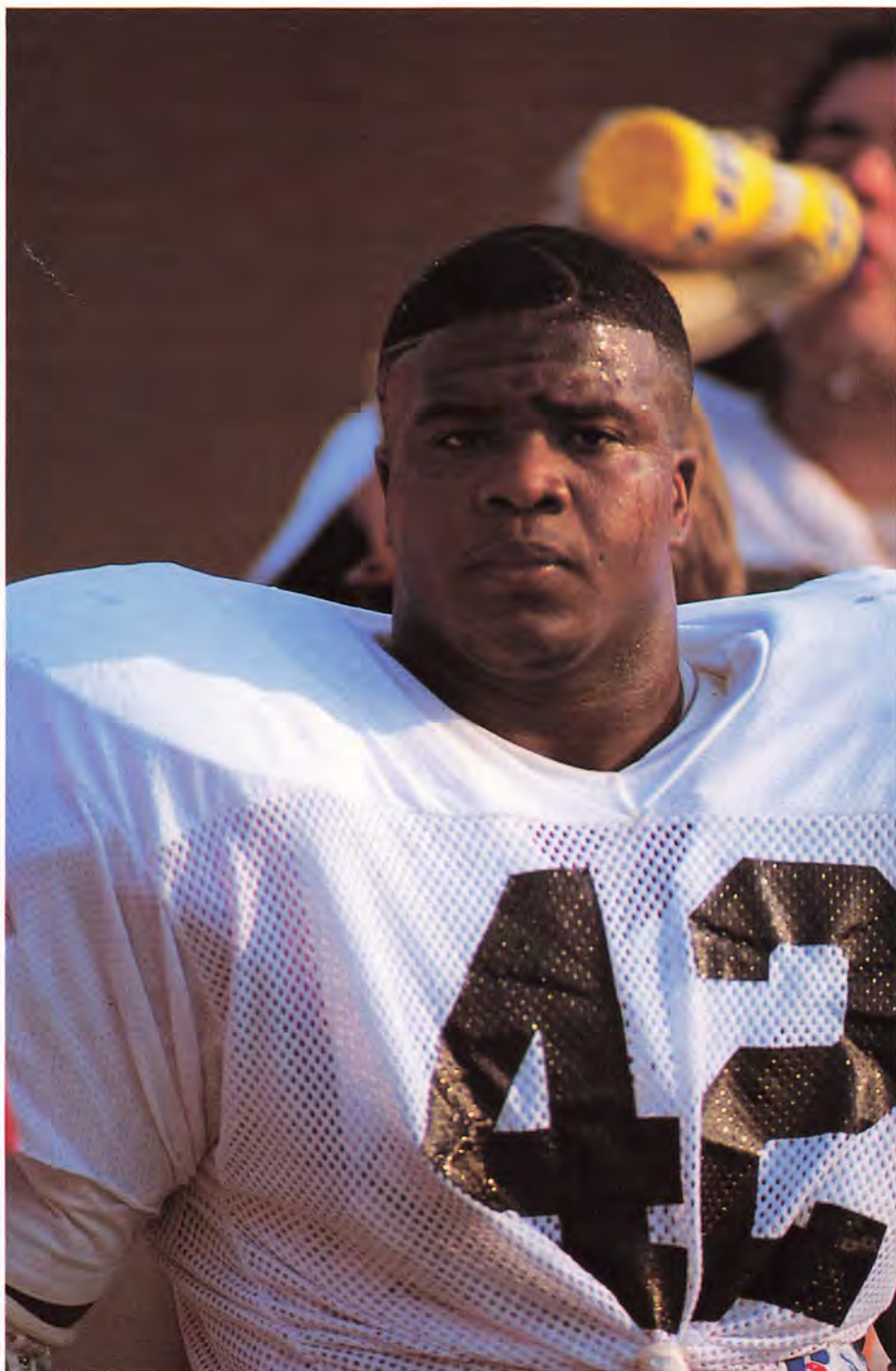
"That felt great," stated Sewell, who had quickly eliminated the Tigers from his final four short list of colleges ("I always wanted to go to Alabama, ever since I was a kid," he explained.). "I didn't play in the first half, but in the second half Coach (Gene) Stallings called for big backs. Martin and I went in and worked well together. We just moved the ball."

"Running the ball is his strong suit," said Kirksey. "This year we'll be in a position to allow him to do that more in power running situations, even on first or second down."

Sewell, realizing he is more of a running threat, relishes that possibility. "In Spring practice I got the ball a whole lot. I enjoy fullback now that I'm getting to carry the ball more," he said. "When I'm in the game, the other team doesn't know what's coming at them. We'll be more difficult to defense because we'll have two dangerous running backs."

Kirksey said, "as he improves on pass and run blocking and catching the ball out of the backfield, his role will increase. He's got to get to where he does those things second nature."

Kirksey said that with his size, speed, and strength, Sewell is a complete football player. "He's a little faster runner than



Junior Sewell is expected to have playing time for Alabama again this fall, but it will almost certainly be at fullback, even though Sewell would prefer to be at tailback. The competition is strong at both positions, but Sewell has some strengths for both.

Barry Fikes Photo

Kevin, but Kevin is a better blocker. And Martin doesn't have the speed that Junior has either, though Martin is a very strong runner. But Kevin and Martin are both more experienced than Junior.

"I think Junior is learning from them, and they compliment each other very

well."

Sewell, a sports fitness major, has his heart set on playing pro football. "That's always what I've wanted to do, play pro football," he said.

He knows he's got two years to prove he's good enough to play for pay.





Antonio Langham:

Cornerback Speaks With His Actions

by Steve Kirk

Tide sophomore made some big plays last year, hopes to get better in '91

For a young man who's known to talk a lot, Antonio Langham found himself on the opposite end of the conversation on his first trip to Neyland Stadium in Knoxville.

On that Third Saturday in October last fall, it was Langham, then an 18-year-old freshman, who was being talked to. The other members of the Alabama secondary were also on the receiving end of the dialogue.

Apparently, certain receivers on the Tennessee squad didn't ooze with respect for the self-proclaimed "X-Clan," otherwise known as the Crimson Tide defensive backfield corps.

"From the time we came on the field to warm up, they were talking," said Langham, a guy who's used to talking up a storm himself, although he usually saves it for the Bryant Hall dorm rooms and other more serene settings.

"They were like, 'Yeah, let's see how good the X-Clan is,' and all that," Langham said. "Tennessee did it all day."

Ironically enough, the Volunteers found out.

A week after scoring 45 points in a technical knockout of Florida, the powerful Tennessee offensive attack was held to just six points by Alabama, and the Vols suffered a 9-6 setback, their first loss of the season.

By the way, Langham said, "By the fourth quarter, most of them were quiet. They didn't have much to say."

Langham, who was better known as a cousin of the Goode clan (Kerry, Clyde, Chris, Pierre, who have contributed much

Antonio Langham has made a lot of big hits in his football career and in the spring he was a big hit with Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings. However, Langham realizes he has plenty of room for improvement.

Barry Fikes Photo



One of the most spectacular plays Antonio Langham made in his first year was blocking a punt against Vanderbilt, then being able to pick up the loose ball for his first collegiate touchdown. However, when Tide Assistant Coach Bill Oliver graded the film of that game he gave Langham low marks. The upcoming sophomore has worked hard to improve his techniques and came out of Spring training a solid number one at right cornerback.

Kent Gidley Photo

to Tide football) before becoming a member of the 'X-Clan,' was a primary factor in the Vols' silence.

In the first half of a contest that produced no touchdowns, Tennessee threatened deep in Alabama territory.

But Langham, a 6-1, 175-pound cornerback, ruined their plans by intercepting a Tennessee pass on the Tide four-yard line and returning it 33 yards, earning congratulations from white-clad Alabama players and from Bama coaches and making the Alabama section of the stands loud, Tennessee sidelines quiet.

"When I got in the game, it was in a nickel package (one extra defensive back in for passing situations)," said Langham, "and we were in zone coverage. When I got it, I wish I could have gone all the way back."

The play and the victory were magnified, in part because a struggling Tide team was 2-3 at that point under first-year Coach Gene Stallings, in part because the

game was played before a national television audience.

"When we went out, Coach (Stallings) said, 'Every player in this lockerroom can make a difference in this game,' Langham said. "I'll never forget that."

Chalk it up to a season of experience or physical maturity, but Langham made even more of a difference during this year's Spring practice, and he is now listed as the number one right cornerback.

On several occasions, Stallings has mentioned that Langham has caught his eye by always seeming to be around the football. "And he's just a freshman," the coach usually adds.

"I'm glad he feels that way about me," Langham said. "I just go out every day and try to improve my game. Every time the ball is snapped, I work hard to get to the ball. I think I had a pretty good Spring."

The aggression shown by the Town Creek native has opened the eye of sec-

ondary coach Bill Oliver, too.

"I tell you what, he packs as hard a lick as anybody we've got out there," Oliver said.

However, there are aspects of Langham's play in which Oliver wants improvement.

"He's still young and people don't realize he'd never played any cornerback before last season," Oliver said. "He played running back and safety in high school. But he's been very aggressive and he's getting himself in the position to recognize things and make them happen."

According to Langham, who also started at point guard in basketball while at Hazlewood high school, it's all a matter of becoming comfortable.

"When I first came in, Coach (Stallings) sat me down and said 'I really need some help this year in the secondary.' He said 'If you prove to me you want to play and you work hard at it every day, then I see you playing this year.'"

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MAY '91

"I came in, worked hard and learned basically what I need to know. It was so different from high school. In college, you had to learn all these adjustments. It was rough the first months. I was confused. I figured I was supposed to be doing something, but then I'd think I might be wrong so I'd do something else. Then I'd end up getting busted because what I was thinking first was what I should have done."

So Langham, playing with the hesitancy of a what one might normally expect of a true freshman, settled into a role of backup cornerback to George Teague on the left and Mark McMillian on the right.

"I watched what they were doing each play in games and practice," said Langham. "As it went on, I got better."

Langham got his first chance to play against Vanderbilt, after the Tide got off to an 0-3 start. And he quickly got his name in the books on special teams by blocking David Lawrence's first quarter punt and recovering it for a touchdown. The Tide would win 59-28.

"We got out of the huddle slow and everyone had to rush to line up because they were going to make a quick kick," Langham said. "Everybody was trying to find out whether we were going to go with 'return' or 'block,' but we didn't know."

"So they snapped it and I took off back there and blocked the kick. As soon as I blocked it, I was looking for it. There were three of us going for it and I got there first."

Touchdown.

Langham's reaction to his first taste of college glory?

"I figured 'Hey, the season is really fixing to start rolling.' I also thought it was strange that I had scored a touchdown before Tarrant (former Town Creek teammate and fellow 1990 freshman, tailback Tarrant Lynch)."

Unfortunately for Langham, coaches can be picky people. When they look at the game film they grade the bad plays as well as the good ones, because they are trying to win football games. And Oliver saw a lot more freshman mistakes out of Langham against the Commodores than he saw brilliance.

"Several times in the Vanderbilt game he had a guy to take but ignored him; and they took off and burned him," Oliver said. "He needs to work on his one-on-one skills."

Langham agreed with the assessment, that his techniques must improve if he is to avoid the bad days.

"Right now, I've got it down some, but I have a few problems," Langham said. "I would like to get stronger physically—upper body and all that. My basic skills and techniques have improved a whole lot, although there's room for improvement."

During his senior year of high school, Hazlewood boasted another star player, Langham's partner in the offensive

backfield, Tarrant Lynch, who also signed with the Tide.

The two players spent a lot of time talking about future plans.

"We talked every day about it," said Langham. "We were both confused on where we wanted to go. One day I said 'Well, if we end up going separate ways, I wish you best of luck where you're going.'"

"Then one night, we sat down and I told him 'It looks like it's down to two schools and I think I'm going to Bama.' He said 'That's where I already made up my mind to go.' We kept it between us for a long time."

Since Langham's weekends were spent playing basketball, he didn't have the time to take recruiting visits like other prospects, so he ended up visiting just Tuscaloosa and Auburn.

After he settled on the Crimson Tide, it came as a surprise to no one. Instead, it was viewed as another expected snatching-up of a star Town Creek football player.

"In Town Creek, football's a big-time sport," Langham said. "You felt if you didn't play football, then you didn't fit in. At least, if you couldn't play you'd attempt to, to feel like you were a part of it."

And how couldn't he feel a part of football tradition after watching his cousins (who were more like big brothers) play all those years?

"When I first started playing high school football, Kerry (Goode, then a starting tailback at Alabama) would call me at school on Friday and we'd make a little family bet, like 'I bet I'll get more yards than you tonight or have more touchdowns than you.'"

"He was just pushing me to be the best I could be. When I went out there, it was on my mind that we made a bet. I'd sit around and watch him play on Saturday, and when I had more than him I'd call him up and say 'You lost that one.'"

His family also helps out a lot in the advice department. He's got plenty of family to turn to, anyway. "I couldn't even set a number," said Langham of his huge family. "I'm related to the majority of people around there."

But he always turns back to the Goodes when he needs football advice. Of course, it's not a bad move, considering Kerry went on to play with Tampa Bay in the NFL, Chris currently plays for Indianapolis and Pierre holds Alabama's longest pass reception record.

"I talked with Chris the other day and he said 'I've been hearing good things about you,'" Langham said. "He said to play corner in the pros, I need to stay under 200 pounds."

"Kerry and Pierre always tell me that when I'm out there, just relax and play like I'm in high school. The crowd may be a little bigger, but other than that, football's the same game."

Meanwhile, he's set about making a name for himself by entering the Alabama program and playing loose. Not always playing correctly, as Oliver said, but always trying to overcome that label of being a freshman. Even as Langham wore that label, he recorded 11 tackles during the 1990 campaign.

This season, the boisterous sophomore is hoping to build his bridge a little farther, and make his hometown proud, especially the Goodes.

"They did what they had to do when they were here," Langham said. "Now, it's my time to do what I have to do. I might not accomplish what Kerry and Chris did, but if I go out and give it the best I've got, I feel 'Hey, I've started something for myself.'"

And maybe he'll finish it the way he did against Tennessee, by having the last word.



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He Has High Hopes In Golf

by Jimmie Cummings

Junior from Scotland
has made great strides,
has great ambitions

Winning national championships in two countries sounds like a big order to fill in the game of golf, or in any sport for that matter.

For a Scotsman at The Capstone, that is the challenge: Winning the NCAA championship and the national championship in his homeland.

University of Alabama junior David Kirkpatrick has done well at meeting previous challenges. Kirkpatrick, a golfer for the Crimson Tide from North Berwick, Scotland, has gone from unknown status two years ago to one of the top performers in the Southeastern Conference and the nation.

A walkon in 1988, Kirkpatrick got the chance to come to America to study and to showcase his golf skills when he was invited by a friend, whom he had met at the British Open. Kirkpatrick came over with his parents and they visited ten universities around the Southeast, including Duke, North Carolina, Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Georgia, Georgia Tech as well as a few smaller schools.

"I came in for an afternoon to visit here and meet Coach (Dick) Spybey," Kirkpatrick said. "I really liked it here so I decided Alabama was the place for me. I applied and was accepted, so then I walked on the golf team."

"Now there are a few other Scots over here, but they all are at junior colleges," Kirkpatrick said. "They really don't get the opportunity to come to a Division I college like Alabama. A lot of the kids over there just don't have the grades or the money, as it is really expensive. The coaches over here can get the best American players, and they are not going to take the risk of taking a foreign player until they have seen him play. To get the opportunity to attend a major school first, instead of attending a junior college for two years, is very rare."

Since arriving at The University in the Fall of 1988, Kirkpatrick has gone from his walkon status to earning a scholarship and becoming the leader and the most consistent player on a Tide squad that is quickly rising to the top. He leads the team with the lowest stroke average (72.6) and as of early April, Kirkpatrick was fifth in the SEC. Kirkpatrick has gone from having the fifth lowest average of the Alabama

squad during his freshman season in 1988 to fourth during his sophomore year, and to now leading the Crimson Tide. He has finished in the top 20 in each of the six tournaments that he has competed in for the Tide this season.

Kirkpatrick chipped in for a birdie from 45 feet on the final hole of the Jerry Pate Invitational in Pensacola on March 10 for a one-shot victory in winning his first college tournament title.

"I knew the situation that I was in and it was a pretty hard chip," Kirkpatrick recalled. "It was downhill and downwind, out of bermuda grass. There was not a lot of green to work with. I knew I would have to get up and down to tie, but I was not thinking about that as I was going through my routine. I just told myself that 10 million people in China really didn't care what I did. We have a tape that Coach Spybey makes us listen to that talks about some baseball player who was pitching with two outs and a full count in the World Series. The manager calls for a timeout to go talk to the pitcher. The pitcher starts to get real nervous and asks 'What is it?' Then the manager says to him that 10 million people in China really don't care what you do. The pitcher then did what he called the easiest pitch he had ever made in his life. I told myself that. It was important, but I could have easily made bogey. So I said to myself 10 million people in China really don't care. I holed it and that was that."

According to Kirkpatrick, the site of Jerry Pate Invitational, which is the Tiger Point Country Club, is the most similar course that he has played on in America to the Scottish courses, and this may have given him an advantage over his American counterparts.

"The grass is very similar and it's pretty sandy. If you take a divot, there is a lot of sand underneath and the lies are real tight as it is also very windy down there. The course as actual holes are not that similar, as it is quite an American golf course, but the natural playing conditions and the grass are very similar."

Despite capturing the championship title, Kirkpatrick restrains from calling this event his biggest accomplishment of the year.

"I don't think me winning the Jerry Pate was my biggest accomplishment. It was a part, but this whole season has been pretty important to me. Winning in Pensacola was just a bonus. I feel like to be good at this game you have to be consistently good."

According to Kirkpatrick, maturing and new found confidence in his game has inspired his performance this season.

"I am a little older, and you can see your past mistakes. You are not so immature and you don't react the same way. My mind is a lot stronger and that in return helps my physical game. I am hitting the ball a lot better off the tee and I am getting up and down a lot more and I'm hitting my irons a lot closer. Everything has just gotten out to that next level. I don't think there is any specific thing that has gotten so much better for me. Everything has just improved. I probably practice the least on the team, but the times I do practice, it's constructive."

As for winning the national championships and earning All-SEC and All-America honors, Kirkpatrick aims at this without cockiness.

"The remainder of this year I would like to make All-SEC and maybe All-America. I feel as though I need to do that and next year I want to be the best college player in America. It is a pretty far-fetched goal, but why not? I think I have the ability; there is no doubt in my mind. You have Phil Mickelson at Arizona State, who is a cut above everyone else. But he is only human, and I think I can get to his level. Even this year, our team goals are to get to the NCAA Championship. I think we will. We have a solid team and I think even my goal this year is to win the NCAA Tournament. It is miles off, but I have played with some of the best players in the nation this year in Mike Sposa (Tennessee) and Perry Moss (LSU). They are better than me right now, but I think come June I can beat them. I think this year is very important for next year, if I can do real well the rest of the semester. The confidence will carry over and we can raise this program at Alabama to another level including a top 10 ranking in the nation. I think I can win every golf tournament next year. People may laugh at that, but if I don't be-

lieve that, nobody will. I know in reality you can't go into every tournament and expect to win, but you have to have that confidence to tell yourself that you are capable of doing it. I know I can."

Kirkpatrick also has his goals set at winning the Scotland National Championship, where he reached the round of 32 last summer. According to Kirkpatrick, if he plays well this summer in his homeland and captures the national championship, the next goal is to make it into the Walker Cup in Ireland.

According to his coach, Kirkpatrick has found a confidence level that has improved him and might eventually lead him as well as the team to a national championship.

"David has a renewed confidence in his game that really has him playing on a different level," Alabama Coach Dick Spybey said. "With that confidence building daily, you have to believe that he has the chance to do very well individually for the rest of his career. I think his goals are to win the SEC and the national championship. What that has done for the team can't even be measured. He's rejuvenated this whole golf team to thinking that they are one of the top teams in the nation."

While attending high school in North Berwick High School, Kirkpatrick played on two national championship teams (1985, 1986). His high school squad also finished third in 1986 and fourth in 1987 in international competition against countries such as India, Australia, and England. Kirkpatrick finished second in the 1986 international competition. At the age of 17, he was the youngest winner ever in the state's men's championship in Scotland. During earlier years, Kirkpatrick also competed on the boys and youth national teams.

Since arriving in America, the Scotsman says he only gets home once a year to see his family and that is during the summer. His sister Jennifer will be coming to America in August as a high school exchange student.

Kirkpatrick is already thinking about his return to Alabama in August following a summer in Scotland. He knows he will have to readjust to the humid weather and to the different style of golf courses.

"The bermuda grass (found on most American courses in the South) is very different. We have rye grass at home and the grass is real tight, which makes the ball really sit down. Here you have this bermuda rough that is so tangly. It's a different game of golf. Over here you have to fly everything to the flag, but in Scotland the greens are so hard and everything is so flat, you have to bump and run. Over there you have to play low draws and try to fade the ball against the wind. It's so windy back home, but here it is more target golf, where you are doing the same shot over and over again. It's so hot here, especially when I come over in August. Coming from a country that is cool during



David Kirkpatrick has gone from an unlikely walkon, coming to Alabama from Scotland, to the Tide's leading player and one of the best in the Southeastern Conference. He has high personal goals and has inspired Bama to high team goals.

Barry Fikes Photo

the summer, which averages 65 to 70 degrees. And that is a dry heat, unlike the humid weather here. I just make sure I drink a lot of water."

With this new confidence that Kirkpatrick has found in himself and that

which he has inspired into his team, national championships may not be far away. Reaching for high goals with such confidence, Kirkpatrick could possibly fill this order for national championships on separate continents.



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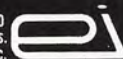
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Right Thing In The Right Place

by Barbara Butler

Tide gymnasts vault to NCAA Championship in front of home crowd

Back in December, Alabama Gymnastics Head Coach Sarah Patterson never would have guessed that her Crimson Tide team would have a chance at winning the national championship. She just hoped that the team would qualify to compete in its home arena April 19, 1991.

Not only did the Crimson Tide tumblers qualify for the NCAA Championship, they won it, with a meet record 195.125.

In winning the championship, two dreams came true for Patterson: One, Alabama hosted the championships in its home arena, Coleman Coliseum; and two, the Tide won in front of its home crowd.

"Winning the national championship in 1988 was great, but to win in front of our home fans is an experience I'll never forget," Patterson said. "We wanted to bring the national championship meet to Tuscaloosa so the fans here could experience the competition between the top teams in the nation, but then to win it here is a dream come true."

Alabama entered the competition seeded number one ahead of defending national champion Utah. By competing as the first seed, Alabama had the advantage of ending on its top two events, the balance beam and floor exercise. When the competition began no one would have guessed that Alabama's vaulting would set the pace for the rest of the meet.

Alabama began on the vault, an event it had struggled on through much of the season. At the SEC championship meet, the Tide had to count two falls on vault and eventually lost 194.10-194.05 to Georgia. Two weeks later at the Central Regional Championships, Alabama scored a season-high 48.45 on vaulting, but that score would have to improve for the Tide to have a shot at the national title.

Improve, it did, as the Tide set a school record 49.075 behind the efforts of Dee Foster's 9.90, Kim Masters 9.85 and Katherine Kelleher's 9.80. The final two vault scores added to the total came from Tina Rinker and Shea McFall, the same two gymnasts who had struggled on this event all season. McFall landed her first attempt scoring a 9.775 and Rinker followed it up with a 9.75. The tone was set for the rest of the meet.

"Scoring on vault like we did psyched us up for the other three events. We knew



Kent Gidley Photo

our best events were remaining and getting vault out of the way helped us prepare for the rest of the meet," Masters said.

After scoring a 48.575 on the uneven bars in the second rotation, Alabama went on to produce the highest totals of the evening on both the balance beam (48.675) and the floor exercise (48.80).

While the championship was all-along in the grasp of Alabama, the performance on the floor clinched the title for the Tide. Sheryl Dundas led off with a 9.70 and then McFall took the floor. As the first notes of her music, "Yea Alabama," blared from the speakers the crowd went wild. Every Alabama fan was on his feet and from that point on, it was the Tide's championship to win or lose. Alabama won.

The winning did not stop with the team effort. Foster placed second in the all-

around behind Georgia's Hope Spivey with a 49.425. Spivey edged her with a 49.525. Foster went on to become a five-time All-America with top eight finishes in all-around, vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. She scratched from competition in Saturday's individual event finals because she pulled tendons in her right hand on her last floor pass during Friday's competition.

"I was in pain and there was no reason to risk further injury by competing. I had nothing to prove to anyone," Foster said.

Alabama produced a total of seven All-Americans who collected a total of 12 All-America awards. Masters, Kelleher and McFall all were named All-America on vault, Dana Dobransky and Gina Basile on balance beam and Dobransky and Kara Stilp on floor exercise.

A True Champion

To listen to the whining from Utah one would have thought the results of Desert Storm had been reversed. But an Alabama gymnast turned one undeserved victory into another of far greater proportions.

One night after playing a role in Alabama's national championship victory, Gina Basile won a title for herself, or so it seemed. In the NCAA gymnastics championship meet, the team competition is held on Friday, then individual championships—which have no bearing on the team event—are contested Saturday. Judges are selected by the NCAA and come from throughout the United States. The host University of Alabama had nothing to do with judging or scoring. Announced results from balance beam competition on Saturday had Basile in a tie for the championship with a gymnast from Utah. Utah had been runnerup to Alabama for the team title. Later a scoring error was discovered showing Basile should have tied for third, not first.

There is a human factor in much of athletics, which is the reason that sometimes a baseball runner who is thrown out is called safe or why sometimes a football team gets a fifth down. But after the competition, those mistakes are just a part of the game. For that reason, the NCAA determined that the awards would remain as announced with Basile considered a co-champion.

In a gesture of sportsmanship, though, Basile and The University relinquished the championship and requested that Basile receive the third place award to which she was entitled.

"I feel like I did what was right and what was in my heart," Basile said. "In no way does this situation take away from the team winning the national championship."

No, indeed. In fact, quite the opposite. It adds to the championship quality of the Alabama team and, particularly, of Gina Basile.

—Kirk McNair

Bama Has A Very Big Year

by Kirk McNair

Addition of seven new players, four in spring, fills a number of needs



Need any help getting those hard-to-reach items or dusting the tops of doorframes? Mrs. Roy Rogers, Sr., of Linden doesn't have any problems. She just enlists the aid of son Roy Rogers, Jr. Alabama basketball will also be getting his help in upcoming years as the 6-10 Rogers has signed with Bama.

Alabama's basketball recruiting needs this year were no secret. Anyone could see the Tide absolutely had to have replenishment at two positions, the inside forward position manned by Melvin Cheatum for most of the past four years and the point guard spot held by Gary Waites during that same time. They were among four seniors (little-used wing guard Bryant Lancaster and center Marcus Campbell the others) being lost to graduation.

The overall results of Alabama recruiting (which may not be over yet) have to be considered very good.

The three signees, all high school seniors, in the early period last November have been documented. They are 6-8 forward Jason Caffey of Mobile Davidson; 6-4 wing guard Bryan Passink of Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Georgia; and 6-9 center Russell Walters of Northeast Jones High School in Laurel, Mississippi.

The spring period has seen Bama add two junior college point guards, a junior college power forward and a high school center. Here's a look at the new signees in alphabetical order:

Dennis Miller is a 5-11, 180-pound point guard from Kankakee Junior College in Kankakee, Illinois. He was a third team junior college All-America who led his team to a 33-3 record, a region championship, and a top ten national ranking. Miller averaged 13 points, 6 assists and 4.5 rebounds for Coach Denny Lehnus at Kankakee. While those are not overwhelming statistics, Kankakee was a team with seven Division I prospects, so the scoring was spread around. Although Miller comes to Alabama as a point guard, he has also played the wing guard position in junior college. As a freshman at Kankakee he averaged 12 points, 5.5 assists and 4 rebounds per game and his team was 28-6 and region champion. Of more than a little importance statistically, as a prep player at Watseka, Illinois, Miller scored 2,075 points, the Illinois high school record, and led his team to the finals of the state championship as a junior and a senior. He was selected to try out for the Jones Cup, a prestigious junior college all-star event held in Tokyo, Japan. That tryout will be in July in Hutchinson, Kansas. One recruiting publication ranked

Miller as the nation's fourth best junior college guard. Purdue was thought to be the runnerup for Miller.

André Perry was probably the number one man on Alabama's wish list this spring. He is a 6-7, 225-pound power forward who was regarded by some recruiting analysts as the nation's top junior college prospect. It was a tough battle. In fact, the night before signing with Alabama Perry told Arkansas Head Coach Nolan Richardson that he would be joining the Razorbacks. However, a night to think about it convinced Perry that Alabama was the place for him. He will graduate from Coffeyville Junior College in Kansas this month, then come to Tuscaloosa for summer school. Perry's coach, Bin Graefe, said one reason Perry chose Alabama is that Tide Assistant Coach Gregg Polinsky was a positive rather than a negative recruiter. Oklahoma was another finalist for Perry's services. Over 50 major colleges recruited him.

Perry did not play high school basketball. In fact, he did not graduate from high school. A former Coffeyville player played with Perry in a Detroit recreational league and recommended him to Coffeyville. He went to the junior college, earned his Graduate Equivalent Degree (GED), and has done well in the classroom as well as on the basketball court. Last year he averaged 23.4 points and 11.2 rebounds and shot 57.5 per cent from the field. As a freshman he averaged 19 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. He scored over 30 points a half dozen times this season and was unanimous all-conference and the most valuable player in the conference all-star game. He was selected for the United States Junior College All-Star team.

Roy Rogers had been considered by most recruiting devotees as likely to be playing at Auburn in future years, but Alabama made an impressive comeback to sign the 6-10, 196-pound center from Linden High School. Rogers was one of those who was not well known prior to the early signing period last fall, but an exceptional senior season, along with his exceptional work in the classroom, made him perhaps the state's top prospect this spring. His coach, Bobby Hall (who took over the team when Head Coach Willie Scott was sent to Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm), said "His mother did him the biggest favor of his life when he was in junior high. She made him sit out of basketball one year because he'd let his grades slide." Rogers got back on the correct academic trail and now has a 3.85 grade point average and made a 23 on the ACT. Rogers also got the job done on the basketball court as he averaged 24.5 points, 11 rebounds and 10 blocked shots per game. He set a state record with 17



André Perry

blocked shots in one game. He led Linden to the 2A state championship in Alabama and was tournament MVP. He was all-state as a senior.

Elliot Washington is a 5-11, 170-pound point guard from Manatee Community College in Bradenton, Florida,

who was something of a surprise signee for the Tide. When Bama lost LaKista McCuller of Americus, Georgia, to North Carolina State, the Tide had to scramble and they came up with Washington. Washington is from Bradenton, where he played at Southeast High School.

(He was not the star of that team. Clifford Rozier, who went to North Carolina, was the big gun. Now that Rozier has announced he is transferring, and since he and Washington are best friends, there is some speculation that Rozier might end up in Tuscaloosa, although there are no indications that is true.)

Washington, who is called "El" by Manatee followers, was frank in his signing announcement. He said that he knew he was not Alabama's first choice, and the fact that Bama coaches had been up front with him about that made him comfortable about choosing the Crimson Tide. He had made recruiting trips to Clemson and Arkansas-Little Rock and cancelled trips to Jacksonville and Miami after signing with Alabama.

At Manatee, Washington averaged 17 points, 3.5 steals, and an incredible 11.1



Elliot Washington

assists per game. He led the state of Florida in assists and was fourth in the nation in that category among junior college players. He shot 45 per cent from the field and 75 per cent from the free throw line. He was a two-year starter who was all-conference this year.

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A Look At Some New Tiders

by Becky Hopf

Spring and winter sports add performers for future Crimson Tide teams

Although most attention is on men's basketball, the spring signing period that began April 10 is for almost all sports. While there is an early period in November for most sports, the spring period is most productive.

Here is a look at how recruiting has gone for sports other than football (which completed its signings in February) and men's basketball:

Alabama's first **baseball** signees this spring came from its own backyard as first to ink with Barry Shollenberger's team were Tuscaloosans Drake Warren and Jeff Cameron. Alabama Assistant Football Coach Bill Oliver's son, Brad, a Tuscaloosa product now, has also signed.

Warren, a cousin to former Alabama and Boston Red Sox star Butch Hobson, is a senior at Central High School. He was moved to third base this season after playing left field for the Falcons in the previous three seasons. Warren, who had 16 career home runs as of mid-April, hit .547 and had 46 RBIs his junior year. His 16 career home runs tied Central's record, which was held by another ex-Alabama star, Doug Duke. Warren was captain on Central's football team and made a name for himself in local lore when he kicked a game-winning field goal against rival Tuscaloosa County High.

Cameron has been settled at the catcher position since he was 10 years old. According to Central Baseball Coach Norm Lacey, in the last eight games of Cameron's junior season he hit .420. Helping power that percentage were three home runs and three doubles in those games.

Brad Oliver is an infielder who bats left and throws right and is playing at Shelton State this year.

Alabama has signed 11 baseball players, including Alan Hill, a catcher who had been consistently timed at 1.92 on his throw to second base. Hill's Baker High School team won the 1990 Alabama 6A championship, a year he hit .406 and earned All-Mobile County honors. He has repeated that honor in 1991 and, by late April, was hitting .396 and had six home runs.

Other names include Randy Farmer, a pitcher/infielder from Meridian, Mississippi, Junior College, a righthander



Alan Hill

who recorded nine saves as a freshman; infielder Kip Ryan out of Shelton State who hit .452 last fall; outfielder William Chaffin from Calhoun Community College in Decatur, and two of his teammates, lefthanded pitcher Jimmy Parker of Killen and infielder Jorge de Posada, a Puerto Rico native who set the Calhoun school record with 21 doubles in 1990; infielder Frank Menechino who was first team all-state as a freshman in Staten Island, New York, and plays now at Gulf Coast Community College; and righthanded pitcher John Henkel of San Jacinto Junior College, who was the winning pitcher in a JC World Series game in 1990.

Women's **tennis**, a young team as its oldest members are two juniors, has signed one player. Lori Smith signed with Alabama during the early signing period. Everyone returns from this year's Alabama team next season. Smith, ranked first in Florida in both singles and in doubles in 1988-89, is the *Florida Times-Union* 1990 Player of the Year. She is a three-time Gator Bowl juniors champion, winning that tournament in the 12s, 14s and 16s. In 1989, she had a Top 48 singles and Top 8 doubles national ranking in juniors. Among her high tournament finishes is making the doubles finals at the national clay court championships.

Dorothy Franco-Reed has signed four new players to compete on her third Crimson Tide **volleyball** team. Among those is an Alabamian, Mavis Reed of Eight Mile. Reed's brother, Roderick, plays football at Southern Miss. Reed preps at Mary Montgomery High School which has claimed six consecutive Area II volleyball championships. Reed made the area all-tournament team in 1990-91 and is her team's MVP. She was all-state the last two seasons, and her other honors include being named MVP at the Satsuma Invitational in 1990 and being named an Azalea City Kiwanis Club Player of the Week. Reed was all-county in basketball.

Also joining the Alabama squad are Marta Bickert, Jennifer Veith and Melanie Ryer. Bickert is a 5-11 hitter from El Toro, California. Bickert's performances on the court landed her on the all-tournament team in the Redondo Beach Power Classic and on two all-star squads including the all-league team. Bickert has also excelled in the classroom at El Toro High School as she will graduate in the top five per cent. Ryer is a 5-10 hitter from Littleton,

Colorado, and was all-conference. She plays for Columbine High School and is class valedictorian. The Florence, Kentucky, player is a 5-11 middle blocker. In 1991, Vieth received numerous honors, including being named all-state, all-region, and the Class A Most Outstanding Player as well as making an all-academic squad.

Jonty Skinner's **swimming** signees include Rick Richmond, Jr., a 6-0 diver from Valrico, Florida, and Bloomingdale High School. Richmond had a Top 20 finish at the National Age Group Championships in both the one and three meter diving events in 1988, and he finished in the Top 15 in the one meter and the Top 20 in the three meter at nationals in 1990. Richmond is a record holder and two-time Western Conference Champion, a three-time district champion, the 1990 4A State Champion and was named the 1989-90 *St. Petersburg Times/Tampa Tribune* Swimmer of the Year.

Joining him in the freshman class of 1991 will be Dave Strassburg, a 6-3 sprinter/middle distance athlete. Strassburg is a junior national champion, a South Carolina state record holder and a national Top 16 finisher. His YMCA team won a national championship as well as the state championship. He attends Spartanburg High School.

On the women's swimming team, Tammy Kneer, a freestyler, was the first to sign in April. Kneer, of Pompano Beach, Florida, attends Cardinal Gibbons High School in Ft. Lauderdale where she was a high school All-America. She has qualified for the 1991 Senior Nationals, and has competed and had top five finishes at the Junior Nationals. Her top events in high school have included the 200 freestyle, the 50 freestyle, the 100 freestyle, the 100 fly, the 100 backstroke and the 200 individual medley. Honors include having the fastest time in the state of Florida in the 100 freestyle (51.39). Her time in the 50 freestyle (23.89) was the third fastest in high school swimming in that event this year.

Three players, including a *Parade* All-America, signed with Rick Moody and the Tide **women's basketball** team in the fall and two more were added this spring.

Moody landed a huge catch in Clinton, Mississippi, guard Niesa Johnson. Johnson's post-season honors this past year, in addition to the *Parade* honor which lauded her as one of the top five players in the nation, include being named the 1991 Mississippi Player of the Year in both girls and boys basketball. She averaged 35 points this season at Clinton High.

Marlene Stevenson, number two on the *Birmingham News*' Super Seniors list for the state of Alabama, signed in November as well. She's a 6-1 center from Vigor



Marta Bickert



Jennifer Veith



Rick Richmond, Jr.



Dave Strassburg



Tammy Kneer

High School in Prichard. Madonna Thompson, a 5-6 guard out of Collinwood, Tennessee, also signed early. Thompson is an all-state player whose AAU team (Alabama Stars) earned the national championship. She was named AAU All-America.

Rozetha Burrow will join her former Calhoun Community College teammate, Linda Burgess (who was All-SEC for the Tide this year). Like Burgess, Burrow is a JUCO All-America. Burrow is a 5-9 forward who prepped at Pinson Valley in Pinson. She was all-state all four years in high school. Her prowess started early in life, as her career was begun in elementary school where she was the only girl on the Kermit A. Johnson boys team.

Melissa Del-Valle, who signed with Alabama last year but attended a local community college this past year, re-signed with the Tide this spring. The 5-5 Queens, New York, point guard, who is a junior college transfer, set the Berkshire High school record in scoring (1448 points) and scored 48 in a single game. She played at Pensacola Junior College for one season and was an honorable mention NJCAA All-America in 1989-90.

Betty Palmer has signed two players to her women's **golf** team. One is an Alabama native, Meg Lindsey of Hartselle. She joins Jill Donaldson, a Slidell, Louisiana, golfer on the list of newcomers.

Donaldson was named *Southern Golf Journal's* Louisiana Women's State Amateur Athlete of the Year. Donaldson helped lead Pope John Paul II High School to the 1989 state title and second in both 1990 and 1991. Individually, Donaldson placed second in the state tournament in 1989 and third in 1990. She won the state women's amateur in 1990 and placed fourth at the Texas-Oklahoma Open where she carded her career low round of 75. Donaldson finished tenth at the 1990 USF&G Junior Classic.

Lindsey's personal best going into May includes finishing second at the 1990 Women's Alabama Golf Association Junior Tournament. She has competed at the U.S. Junior Girls, the PGA Junior National and the Orange Bowl Junior Invitational. Her best 36-hole score is 75/75.

For the first time in many years, a Mobilian's face will be among those on the Alabama men's golf team, and this one signed by Coach Dick Spybey has made waves in juniors golf. Ryan Gump, a senior at McGill-Toolen High School, says he picked up clubs for the first time when he was five. He has won 42 tournaments since he was 13 years old, and those titles came in three states—Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. Gump won the state junior championship when he was 16 and was runnerup at the state high school tournament last year. He led McGill-Toolen to the

1989 team championship.

In **track and field**, two new additions have been made on Doug Williamson's women's team. One of those, Faith Idehen, was All-America in the 60 at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Championships this year. Idehen, a Nigerian, competed at Missouri Baptist. In her home country, the sprinter is a national record-holder. She will likely compete in the 100 and 200 meters at Alabama.

Also joining the Alabama team is an Alabama product, FerTacia Chapman, a state champion from Grove Hill. Chapman could compete in the 100, 200 meters, and the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. She is a five time state champion. In her career, 1986-89, Chapman has claimed state titles in the 100 (twice), the 200 (twice), and the 400. She is a junior college transfer.

Holly Voorheis, an Elite **gymnast** from Frankenmuth, Michigan, is the only signee announced thus far by Sarah Patterson. Bama is expected to add one other signee to join the defending national championship team next year. Voorheis competes for the Saginaw Gym Jesters and has been competing since she was nine years old. During the 1989-90 season she won two all-around titles and eight individual apparatus championships. She has a best score of 9.9 in the vault. She is a member of the National Honor Society.



Niesha Johnson



Madonna Thompson



Meg Lindsey



Jill Donaldson



Holly Voorheis

BAMA SCORECARD

The 1992 Football Schedule

A number of Southeastern Conference schools have announced their 1992 football schedules, but Alabama is not yet ready to do so. Beginning in 1992 the new additions to the league, Arkansas and South Carolina, begin football competition. Then each SEC team will play eight conference games. Teams will play each of the five teams in their divisions, each of two traditional opponents in the other division, and one of the four remaining teams in the other division.

Thus, in 1992 Alabama will play West Division members Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State, as well as traditional East Division opponents Tennessee and Vanderbilt, and will play South Carolina as its eighth game.

The reason Alabama has not announced its schedule as of this writing is that Athletics Director Hootie Ingram ran into scheduling conflicts when the SEC sent Bama its schedule of eight games. He is trying to work in the three teams Alabama has contracts with for that year—Southern Miss, Tulane and Louisiana Tech. (Note the absence of Memphis State, which had been on a ten-year home-and-home contract with the Tide.)

A few things about the 1992 Alabama schedule are known:

1.) It will begin no earlier than September 5 and end no later than November 28.

2.) The SEC Championship Game (as of today, site not determined) will be December 5.

3.) The Auburn game will continue to be the final regular season game of the year for the Tide, scheduled on November 28.

4.) Tennessee will continue to be a third Saturday in October opponent for Bama, on October 17 in 1992.

5.) A quirk in the schedule means that Bama will play at LSU back-to-back years, in 1991 and in 1992 on November 7. (However, considering Alabama's record in Baton Rouge, that's not particularly bad news. The Tide hasn't lost in Tiger Stadium since 1969 and has a 9-0-1 record in its last 10 games.)

Some Lost Souls

It would be inaccurate to say that Alabama managed to sign seven new men's basketball players by recruiting only 10, or that the Tide picked up four of the seven it went after in the spring period.

However, there were really only three key losses in the late period (and one of those has not absolutely been lost as of this writing). The first loss was potentially damaging. Bama had been recruiting a handful of high school and junior college point guards and those efforts seem to have paid off when LaKista McCuller of Sumpter County High School in Americus, Georgia, announced on March 20 that he would be attending Alabama. With the commitment of McCuller, Alabama was no longer high on

the lists of a number of point guards, such as Tyrone Wilson of South Carolina who cancelled his plans to visit Alabama and signed with Georgia. This is not to suggest that Alabama would have gotten Wilson if the Tide had not had a commitment from McCuller, but Bama would have been in much better position to recruit him. Three days before the April 10 signing period began, McCuller announced that he had reneged on his commitment to Alabama (a commitment is not binding) and would sign with North Carolina State, which he did.

The second loss was mystifying. Leonard White, a 6-6, 210-pound forward at Faulkner Junior College in Bay Minette, was one of the nation's hottest commodities after this season. He received scholarship offers from over 60 major colleges, including Alabama, and Tide coaches wanted him very badly. When White signed with smalltime Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he caught virtually everyone by surprise.

As the spring signing period entered its fourth week, one of the state's top prospects still had not been able to make a decision. Alonzo Johnson, the 7-0 center at Francis Marion in Marion, was reportedly still trying to decide between (supposedly) Alabama, Alabama-Birmingham, LSU, Tennessee and Wake Forest (where he took official visits) and perhaps Auburn (where he may have visited unofficially). Tennessee sources have believed for a number of weeks that the Vols would get Johnson, primarily because Tennessee has a black head coach, Wade Houston. The attitude of Alabama's coaching staff seemed to be, "If we get him fine; if we don't, we still had a very good recruiting year."

Looking Ahead

For a number of years it has been 'BAMA policy in the issue covering high school football signees to suggest some upcoming prep seniors who will be top prospects in the next year.

The state of Alabama has produced high quality basketball players for many years, and so this year we will look at a few of them who will be on most of the preseason lists of top 1991-92 prospects.

The top prospect in Alabama next year is expected to be Wade Kaiser, the 6-9 star at Vestavia Hills near Birmingham. Birmingham has long been a basketball hotbed and at least two players from that city will be high on the lists. They are Demetrius Goodman of Carver and Anthony Thomas of Woodlawn.

Although he will not consider Alabama (his father/coach is an Auburn supporter), and therefore Bama will probably not waste time and effort recruiting him, look for Lance Weems of Clay County to be highly-ranked.

Alabama has been getting good results from junior college recruiting over the past few years. Two who might be on Bama's list to watch next year are Shon Peck Love,

who prepped at Tuscaloosa Central High School and who is now at Three Rivers Community College in Missouri (from whence came current Tider Latrell Sprewell), and Kenneth Conley, a 6-8 inside player from Coffeyville Community College in Kansas. He is not only from the same school as new signee André Perry, he is Perry's nephew and also from Detroit.

About That Jacket

Kentucky Basketball Coach Rick Pitino held a fund-raising breakfast and auction to benefit the American Leukemia Society last month and one of the items to be auctioned was the plaid jacket Pitino wore when Kentucky hosted Alabama in basketball last winter. Almost \$10,000 was raised at the auction and top bid went for the jacket, \$900. The scary part is the buyer was a psychology professor at the University of Kentucky. That might threaten the department's accreditation.

Sanderson To Coach

Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson has been selected to coach the South team in the Olympic Festival July 14-16 at Pauley Pavilion on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles.

Tiders Selected

One said yes and one said no when the Pan-Am Trials came calling at Alabama basketball. Upcoming senior Robert Horry declined the invitation to try out for the United States' team, citing his continuing efforts to completely recover from the hamstringing injury that bothered him through much of the past season. Horry has another worry now, although it is not expected to have long-term effects. In a pickup basketball game he caught a finger in the eye that did some damage and minor surgery was required.

On the other hand, James Robinson accepted the invitation and went to the first tryout only a couple of weeks after under going arthroscopic knee surgery. Robinson injured the knee in preparation for Alabama's Sweet 16 appearance against Arkansas in the NCAA Tournament. The surgery was a success and James was off crutches within a couple of days following the surgery.

Basketball Schedule

Alabama has not yet completed its basketball schedule for next season, but a couple of things are known about it. Bama knows it will be meeting North Carolina State in the first round of the Tournament of Champions in Charlotte next season. The Tide will then play either DePaul or North Carolina-Charlotte. Bama is also going to an eight-team tournament in Hawaii. Villanova is among the other participants.

Bama's top non-conference home game next year will be against Virginia. The Cavaliers come to Tuscaloosa on Sunday,

December 1, the day after the Alabama-Auburn football game.

Alabama Head Coach Wimp Sanderson can always find something unpleasant, and the first Southeastern Conference schedule with new members Arkansas and South Carolina doesn't sit well with him. Under the new format, teams will play home and home games against those in their division (for Alabama that is Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State), then play either home or away against the other six teams (a total of 16 conference games, down from 18 under the old double round robin with 10 teams). Alabama road games against the East Division are against three of the East toughies, Kentucky, Georgia and South Carolina.

All-Star Dates

The Alabama vs. Mississippi High School All-Star Football game will be Saturday, June 15, at Ladd Stadium in Mobile. Alabama has won the two previous games, both in overtime. The first Alabama-Mississippi boys and girls basketball all-star games will be June 8 at The University of North Alabama. Tide signees in the basketball games for Alabama include Jason Caffey Davidson and Marlene Stevenson of Vigor. The Mississippi team is expected to include Russell Walters and Neisa Johnson, also Bama signees.

Baseball Records

Alabama center fielder Mick Kerns tied two SEC records and broke two school records on April 20. Kerns was five-for-five in hitting, including four doubles, in one game. The five hits tied a school record shared by 14 others, most recently Juan Debrand this year. The four doubles broke the school record of three held by Zack Rogers (1972) and David Magadan (1983). It also tied the SEC mark. The fifth hit broke Magadan's school record of eight straight hits set in the 1983 College World Series. Kerns eventually ran the new record to 11 straight at-bats in which he got a hit. That tied the SEC record. That was two shy of the NCAA record.

Baseball Professionals

Two former Alabama baseball players are now in the major leagues, first baseman David Magadan with the New York Mets and pitcher Greg Hibbard with the Chicago White Sox.

However, a handful of former Bama players are also now playing in minor league baseball. Shortstop Craig Shipley is in AAA baseball with San Diego affiliate Las Vegas. Several former Tiders are in the AA Southern League: Pitcher Mike Sadders is at Charlotte (Chicago Cubs affiliate), pitcher Meridith Sanford at Chattanooga (Cincinnati) and outfielder Ted Williams at Jacksonville (Seattle). In A baseball are Greg Hammond at Charles, South Carolina, and Mike Soper at Kinston, North Carolina.

Additionally, former Tide and Boston Red Sox star Butch Hobson is manager of Pawtucket in the AAA International League. That's the Red Sox' top farm club.

Promotions

Alabama has a couple of "promotions"

coming up, special events to attract followers to baseball games. On May 4, fans will have an opportunity to win a television set on "TV Theme Song Night." And May 7 is "Batting Helmet Night," with free Alabama batting helmets awarded to fans as long as they last.

Olsen Makes Pan-Pac Team

Alabama swimmer Jon Olsen swam to second place finishes in the 100 and 200 freestyles at the United States Swimming National Championships to earn a spot on the U.S. Pan-Pacific team. He was previously named to U.S. teams for the 1990 Goodwill Games and the 1991 World Championships.

Angel Myers Martino, wife of Alabama graduate assistant coach Mike Martino, also landed a spot on the U.S. team by winning the 50 freestyle.

Stimpson Doing Well

As Alabama's tennis team has struggled through much of the year (its current national ranking of 25th notwithstanding), Bama Head Coach John Kreis must wonder what a difference John Stimpson might have made. Stimpson decided to try the professional circuit this year rather than return for his senior season as Bama's number one player (and one of the best in the college ranks). Stimpson has done well, moving into the world's top 200.

Camp Time

Alabama this year will once again offer a variety of comprehensive summer athletics camps for children 9-17. All camps offer both overnight and day camper rates.

The 1991 Alabama Football Camp is offered in two sessions for boys, June 9-12 and June 12-15. Boys in upcoming grades 2-6 attend the junior camp, June 12-15. Skill camps, for boys in grades 7-11, as well as a line camp are offered during both sessions. Cost is \$185. For more information write Alabama Football Camp, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

The Wimp Sanderson Basketball Camp has become one of the South's most popular. Two sessions are offered, June 23-27 and July 7-11. Additionally, this year the Alabama High School Athletic Association approved team camps and so Sanderson will have a team camp June 30-July 3.

Girls also have a basketball camp available, Rick Moody's Girls Basketball Camp. Fees are \$230 for resident campers, \$150 for day campers. The camp is June 16-20.

The Alabama Golf Camp, directed by Tide Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey, is for boys and girls. Camps are June 9-13 and June 16-20 and there is also an elite session for golfers with a handicap of 10 or lower.

Bama Head Volleyball Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed hosts her camp in two sessions, July 21-25 and July 28-August 1. The cost is \$230 for resident campers, \$190 for day campers.

Dates for Alabama swim camps and for Alabama baseball camps have not been set.

For complete information on basketball, golf, baseball, swimming and volleyball camps write to the specific camp, P.O. Box 870390, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

The Crimson Tide Tennis Camp is open to both boys and girls and has three sessions-June 16-21, June 23-28 and July 7-12. Resident campers pay \$295 and day campers \$195. For information write Coach John Kreis, 821 Ashland Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406.

Alabama also conducts camps for cheerleaders and dance teams under Debbie Brown, coach of the Alabama cheerleaders. This year there will be cheerleader camps June 4-7, June 11-14 and June 18-21. The dance team camp is July 23-26. Details are available from Debbie Brown at (205) 348-3600 or from Universal Cheerleaders Association, 1-800-238-0296.

Alabama will not be able to offer a gymnastics camp this summer because of renovations to the gymnastics facility. The camp will resume next summer.

Another Rating

On the football front, another rating is out from one of the many recruiting experts. Southeastern Recruiting, out of Atlanta, ranked the entire nation and was with the majority in saying Penn State had the best year. The rest of the top ten: number 2 Florida State, number 3 Michigan, number 4 Colorado, number 5 Tennessee, number 6 Georgia, number 7 Texas A&M, number 8 Alabama, number 9 Washington and number 10 Notre Dame.

The service had Florida State signing seven of the top 50 players in the Southeast, with Alabama and Georgia signing six each, Florida 5, Georgia Tech and Auburn 3, South Carolina, Clemson, Tennessee, Notre Dame and Penn State 2 each, and LSU, Nebraska, Colorado and Mississippi State 1 each. Bama's signees off the Nifty Fifty are quarterback Brian Burgdorf, defensive back Willie Gaston, defensive end Dameian Jeffries, tight end Tony Johnson, wide receiver David Palmer and offensive lineman Jon Stevenson. The report also listed Curt Brown as a five-star signee, along with Gaston, Jeffries, Johnson and Palmer. Earning 4 and a half stars were Burgdorf, Tommy Johnson, Stevenson, Bryan Thornton and junior college transfer Bryan Thornton.

Something To Believe

Among the many visitors during spring football practice this year were former Alabama (and New York Giants and Tampa Bay Bucs) Head Coach Ray Perkins, now living in Tuscaloosa, and former Pittsburgh Head Coach Mike Gottfried, now a commentator for ESPN. Someone asked Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings if they were in Tuscaloosa trying to get Stallings' job.

"I don't think they'd want it," Stallings said, smiling. Then he added, "But in two or three years they will."

Football Press Guide

Anyone wishing to order the 1991 Alabama Football Media Guide may do so by sending \$8 (checks payable to University of Alabama) for each guide to Football Media Guide, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. The guides will be mailed in August.

1991 Alabama Spring Sports Results

Baseball

8	Alcorn State	2
8	Alabama-Birmingham	5
8	@ South Alabama	10
4	@ South Alabama	3
9	@ Alabama-Birmingham	1
3	Tennessee Tech	1
8	Tennessee Tech	0
8	Illinois State	6
8	Illinois State	7
9	Northeast Louisiana	0
6	Ohio State	12
6	Furman	5
8	Ohio State	0
7	Furman	6
15	Louisville	9
7	Louisville	4
7	@ Florida	4
0	@ Florida	4
3	Eastern Kentucky	0
12	Arkansas State	3
14	Arkansas State	3
8	@ Mississippi State	1
2	@ Mississippi State	0
14	@ Mississippi State	11
1	Illinois	4
1	Illinois	0
11	Tennessee (11 innings)	8
1	Tennessee	3
8	Tennessee	1
4	Middle Tennessee State	3
11	Middle Tennessee State	6
4	Ole Miss	3
10	Ole Miss	1
4	Ole Miss	3
12	Murray State	5
7	Murray State	5
5	@ Georgia	4
4	@ Georgia	0
7	@ Georgia	3
16	Samford	4
11	Auburn	19
8	Auburn	17
7	Auburn	6
2	Auburn @ Montgomery	11
4	@ LSU	15
8	@ LSU	6
6	@ LSU	11
May 4	Kentucky (2)	4:00
May 5	Kentucky	2:00
May 7	South Alabama	7:00
May 8	South Alabama	2:00
May 9	Auburn @ Dothan	7:00
May 11	@ Vanderbilt (2)	1:00
May 12	@ Vanderbilt	1:30
(All times Central)		

Men's Tennis

Feb. 1-	National Indoor @ Minneapolis	
Feb. 10	(Invitational for individuals)	
6	Middle Tennessee	3
	Ice Volleys @ Minneapolis	
4	Clemson	5
5	Miami	4
7	Murray State	2
6	Alabama-Birmingham	3
7	Southwestern Louisiana	1
4	Ole Miss	5
	Corpus Christi (Texas) Invitational	
5	Long Beach State	1
5	Notre Dame	2
5	Harvard	4
4	Ole Miss	5
1	@ Georgia	5
	Blue-Gray @ Montgomery	
5	Indiana	3
2	TCU	5
0	Arizona	6
4	@ Florida	5
1	LSU	5
5	@ Vanderbilt	4
1	@ Kentucky	5
4	Auburn	5
1	Tennessee	5
1	Mississippi State	5
	SEC Championships @ Oxford-8th	
May 17-26	NCAA @ Athens	

Men's Golf

Feb. 6-10	Gator Invitational @ Gainesville	
	(Tie for 4th of 18 teams)	
Feb. 20-24	Doral/Taylor Made Invitational	
	@ Miami	
	(tie for 7th of 18 teams)	
March 6-10	Jerry Pate Invitational	
	@ Pensacola	
	(tie for 3rd of 15 teams)	
March 20-24	Southeastern Invitational	
	@ Montgomery	
	(2nd of 15 teams)	
April 19-21	Eagle Invitational	
	@ Savannah, Ga.	
	(9th of 13 teams)	
April 24-28	Billy Hitchcock Invitational	
	@ Auburn	
	(4th of 18 teams)	
May 8-14	SEC Championships @ Starkville	
May 22-24	NCAA Regionals, TBA	

Men's Track & Field

March 22-24	Alabama Relays	
March 29-30	Florida Relays @ Gainesville	
April 6	Crimson Classic	
April 13	@ Oregon	
April 20	Ole Miss Invitational @ Oxford	
April 25-27	Penn Relays @ Philadelphia	
May 5	Auburn Invitational @ Auburn	
May 16-19	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
May 23	Last Chance Invitational @ Atlanta	
May 29-June 1	NCAA @ Eugene, Oregon	

Women's Tennis

	ALABAMA INVITATIONAL	
8	South Alabama	1
8	Ohio State	1
6	Alabama-Birmingham	0
	COMMODORE CUP	
4	Arkansas	5
4	Wake Forest	5
6	Samford	3
0	Georgia	9
5	Tennessee	3
	INDIANA INVITATIONAL	
1	Indiana	6
6	TCU	3
6	Texas A&M	3
3	@ Florida State	6
7	Mississippi State	2
	HOUSTON INVITATIONAL	
6	@ Houston	3
7	North Carolina @ Houston	2
3	Kentucky	5
7	@ Auburn	2
0	Florida	9
2	@ LSU	7
5	Vanderbilt	2
8	Auburn-Montgomery	0
4	Ole Miss @ Knoxville	5
	SEC Championships @ Knoxville-6th	
May 8-May 16	NCAA @ Palo Alto	

Women's Golf

Feb. 15-17	Lady Gator Invitational	
	@ Gainesville	
	(10th of 12 teams)	
March 1-3	Auburn Invitational	
	@ Eufaula	
	(3rd of 8 teams)	
March 15-17	LSU Fairwood Invitational	
	@ Baton Rouge	
	(5th of 13 teams)	
April 5-7	SMU Invitational @ Dallas	
	(6th of 12 teams)	
April 19-21	USA Invitational @ Foley	
	(4th of 18 teams)	
April 26-28	Southern Intercollegiate	
	@ Athens, Ga.	
	(4th of 13 teams)	
May 3-5	SEC Championships	
	@ Lexington	

Women's Track & Field

March 22-24	Alabama Relays	
March 29-30	Florida Relays @ Gainesville	
April 6	Crimson Classic	
April 13	@ Oregon	
April 20	Ole Miss Invitational @ Oxford	
April 25-27	Penn Relays @ Philadelphia	
May 5	Auburn Invitational @ Auburn	
May 16-19	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
May 23	Last Chance Invitational @ Atlanta	
May 29-June 1	NCAA @ Eugene, Oregon	

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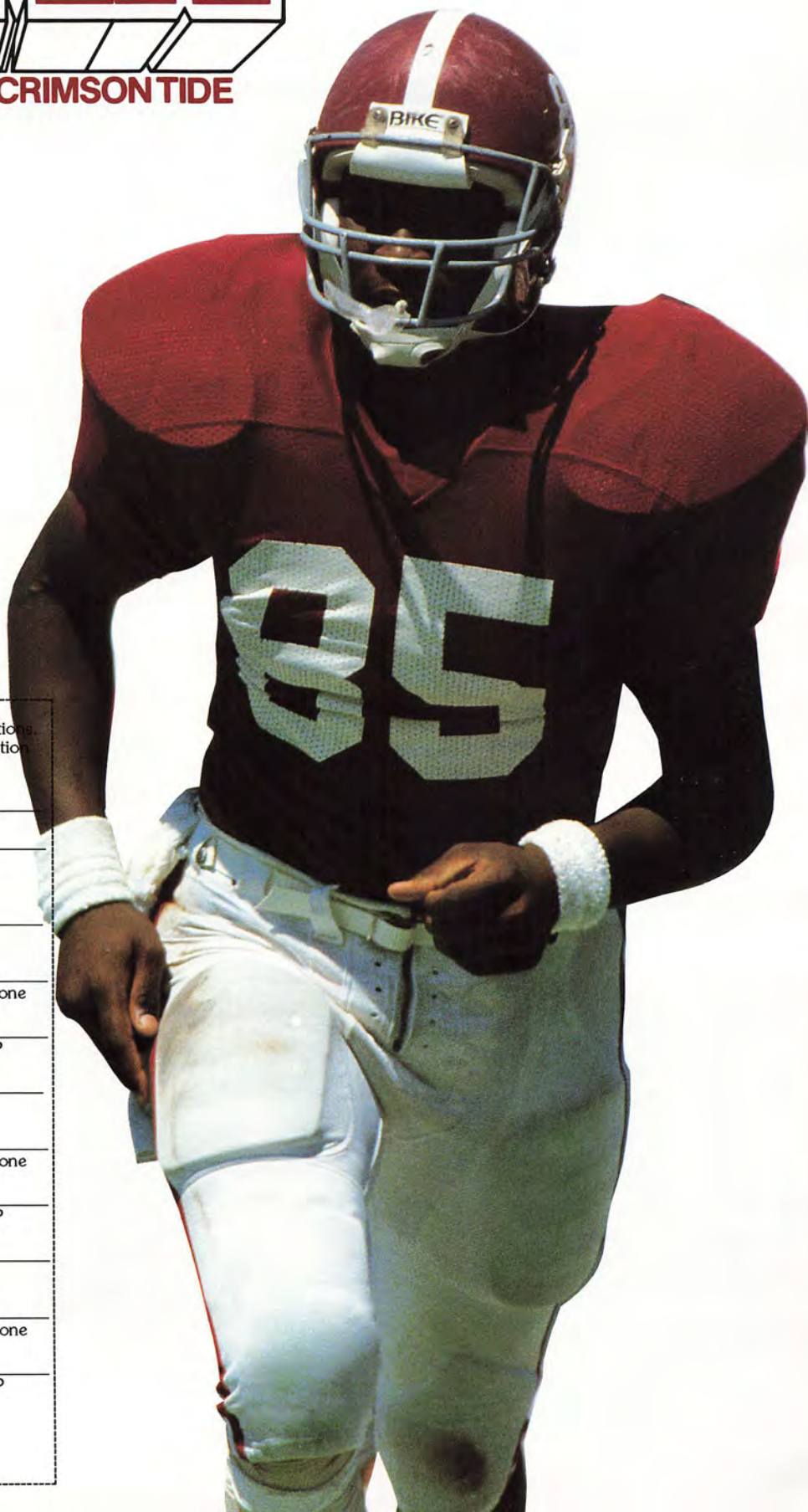
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